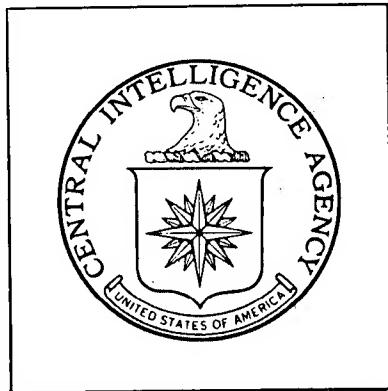


Top Secret



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Industrial Facilities
(Non-Military)

Basic Imagery Interpretation Report

Tai-yuan Chemical Fertilizer Plant

Tai-yuan, China



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RCS 13/0080/69
DATE JANUARY 1969
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 Directorate of Intelligence
 Imagery Analysis Service

RCS-13/0080/69

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME	COUNTRY
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Tai-yuan Chemical Fertilizer Plant	CH
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UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES
49SFM 292 802	37-46-06N 112-27-50E

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MAP REFERENCE	15th RTS. USATC Series 200, Sheet M0382-13HL, 3rd edition, Jun 67, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)
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LATEST IMAGERY USED	NEGATION DATE (If required)
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Not Required

ABSTRACT

The basic production facilities were complete when the Tai-yuan Chemical Fertilizer Plant was first observed on photography of 12 December 1961. A second phase of construction occurred between 1962 and 1964, which included an expansion of the nitric acid production facilities by approximately 40 percent, as well as the construction of a possible urea production facility. Ammonium nitrate is the primary product of this plant. Possible secondary products include urea, aqueous/liquid ammonia, concentrated nitric acid, and explosives. Methanol is probably also produced. The plant appeared to be in operation on all photographic coverage during the period from December 1961 to August 1968. No significant changes in facilities have been made since March 1964.

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INTRODUCTION

The Tai-yuan Chemical Fertilizer Plant is located at the foot of the Luliang Mountains in Shansi Province, approximately 7.5 nautical miles (nm) southwest of Tai-yuan. The plant is situated in a large industrial area.

A large reservoir, located immediately to the east, supplies water to the fertilizer plant. The Tai-yuan Heat and Thermal Power Plant No. 1 [redacted] located to the immediate north, furnishes steam and electric power. The plant is served by both rail and road.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

Physical Features

The plant, basically rectangular in shape, is located within a walled area, approximately 2,700 by 5,500 feet, and occupies approximately 340 acres. The plant layout is similar to that observed at two other Chinese fertilizer plants, Lan-chou and Chi-lin. All three plants were reportedly built with Soviet aid, and all three are distinctly characteristic of the expansive Russian design.

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TOP SECRET RUFFOperational Functions

The primary function of the Tai-yuan Chemical Fertilizer Plant is the manufacture of ammonium nitrate, and possibly urea and aqueous/liquid ammonia.

Methanol (methyl alcohol) is probably produced at the plant. Explosives and concentrated nitric acid are possible secondary products, although production facilities could not be positively identified for these two products.

The major production facilities for nitrogenous fertilizer have been identified and annotated on Figure 3. There are several large production buildings which have not been identified; however, their location and access to ammonia would indicate that their function is the production of ammonia-based compounds.

Construction Chronology

The basic production facilities were completed by [redacted]. Significant construction occurred during the 1962 to 1964 period, as shown in Figure 3. This expansion in facilities included an approximate 40 percent expansion of the nitric acid production facilities, the possible urea production facility and adjacent buildings, and the warehouse in the ammonium nitrate production area. No significant changes in facilities have been observed since March 1964.

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Production Activity

The plant appeared to be in operation on all photography studied for the period from December 1961 to August 1968. Indicators of production activity were the appearance of smoke/steam from some of the processing units, raw material in open storage, rail traffic, and the filled gasholders.

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REFERENCES

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Maps

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet M0382-13HL, 3rd edition, June 1967.
Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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Documents

CIA/IAD. PIR 75036, Tai-yuan Chemical Fertilizer Plants (Tai-yuan Chemical Combine), Tai-yuan, China, September 1966 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

Requirement

EXSUBCOM - BR-N/002-69

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